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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Foster Group Art Unit: 1745  
Serial No.: 09/334,974 Examiner: Cantelmo  
Filed: 06/17/1999  
Title: Process for Applying Protective and Decorative Coating on an Article

**RESPONSE**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on February 1, 2002. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-24, 26-36 and 64-67 remain in this application. Claims 10 and 29 have been amended, and new claims 64-67 have been added.

**AMENDMENT**

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10. (THRICE AMENDED) The process of claim 1 wherein said electroplating comprises electroplating at least one layer comprised of copper on said at least a portion of the surface of said article to provide at least one electroplated copper layer, electroplating at least one layer comprised of nickel on said at least one electroplated copper layer to provide at least one electroplated nickel layer, and electroplating at least one layer comprised of chrome directly on said at least one electroplated nickel layer.

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29. (THRICE AMENDED) The process of claim 1 wherein said electroplating comprises electroplating at least one layer comprised of nickel on at least said portion of the surface of said article to provide at least one electroplated nickel layer, and electroplating at least one layer comprised of chrome directly on said at least one electroplated nickel layer to provide at least one electroplated chrome layer.

(3) (Please add the following new claims:)

64. (NEW) The process of claim 1 further comprising providing a drying period for said article surface.

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JAN 24 2003

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